

Social and Economic Issues Associated with Marijuana Cultivation in California

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Today

- The Humboldt Institute for Interdisciplinary Marijuana Research
- Attitudes and Use of Marijuana
- Economic scale of pot production
- Environmental Concerns about Cannabis Cultivation in Historical Perspective
- Context in which the Marijuana Industry Emerged in USA
- Industry Players – Profiles
- Why? Understanding Marijuana Agricultural Practices
- Future Projections for Economy, Ecology, and Community

OUTDOOR ALERT



The Emerald Triangle of California

- Humboldt, Mendocino, and Trinity Counties, CA
- Marijuana cultivation dates to early 1970s
- Largest producer of marijuana
- Internationally known as a marijuana producing bioregion
- Illicit marijuana economy has subsidized other declining resource (timber and fishing) extraction industries



Marijuana in Humboldt County



Marijuana in Humboldt County



- 1.5 grow shops per 100,000 in greater San Francisco Bay Area (Alameda, Marin, Contra Costa, SF, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Sonoma Counties)
- 23 grow shops per 100,000 in Humboldt County

Source: Growstorefinder.com

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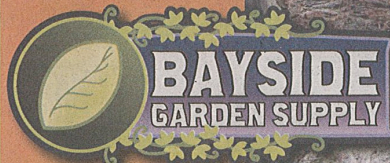


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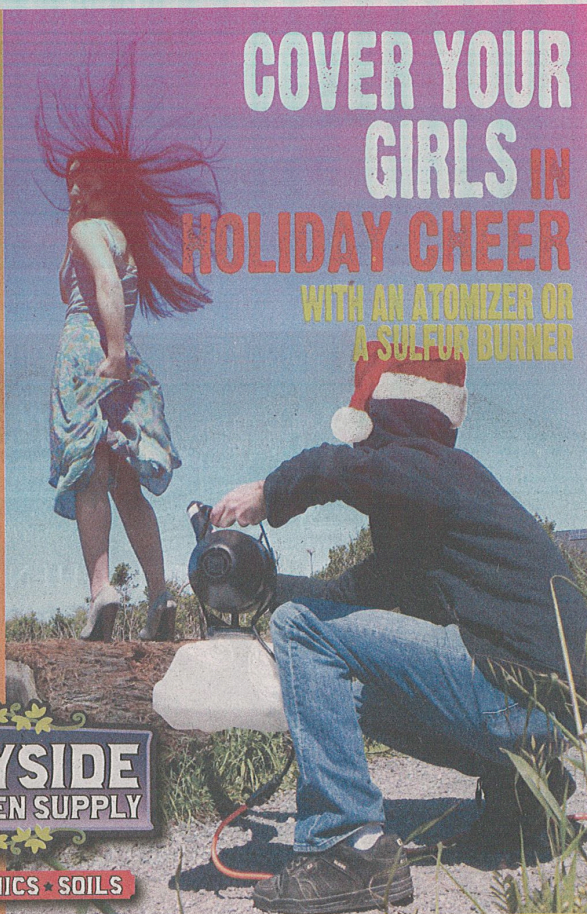
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Journal

We have just released the special edition on **Current Perspectives on Marijuana and Society** in the Humboldt Journal of Social Relations, co-edited by Professors Ronnie Swartz and Beth Wilson.

Annual Speaker Series

We are looking forward to the second year of our Speaker Series and we will post our 2013-14 list of upcoming speakers in the fall.

Mission

HIIMR seeks to improve the economic, social, physical, and environmental health of individuals and communities through the interdisciplinary scientific study of marijuana. Members of HIIMR will: Design, conduct, analyze, and disseminate research, Provide applied expertise to policy makers, researchers, health professionals, businesses, and the media, and Archive and provide access to source materials (raw data, media)

Contact Us

Co-Directors

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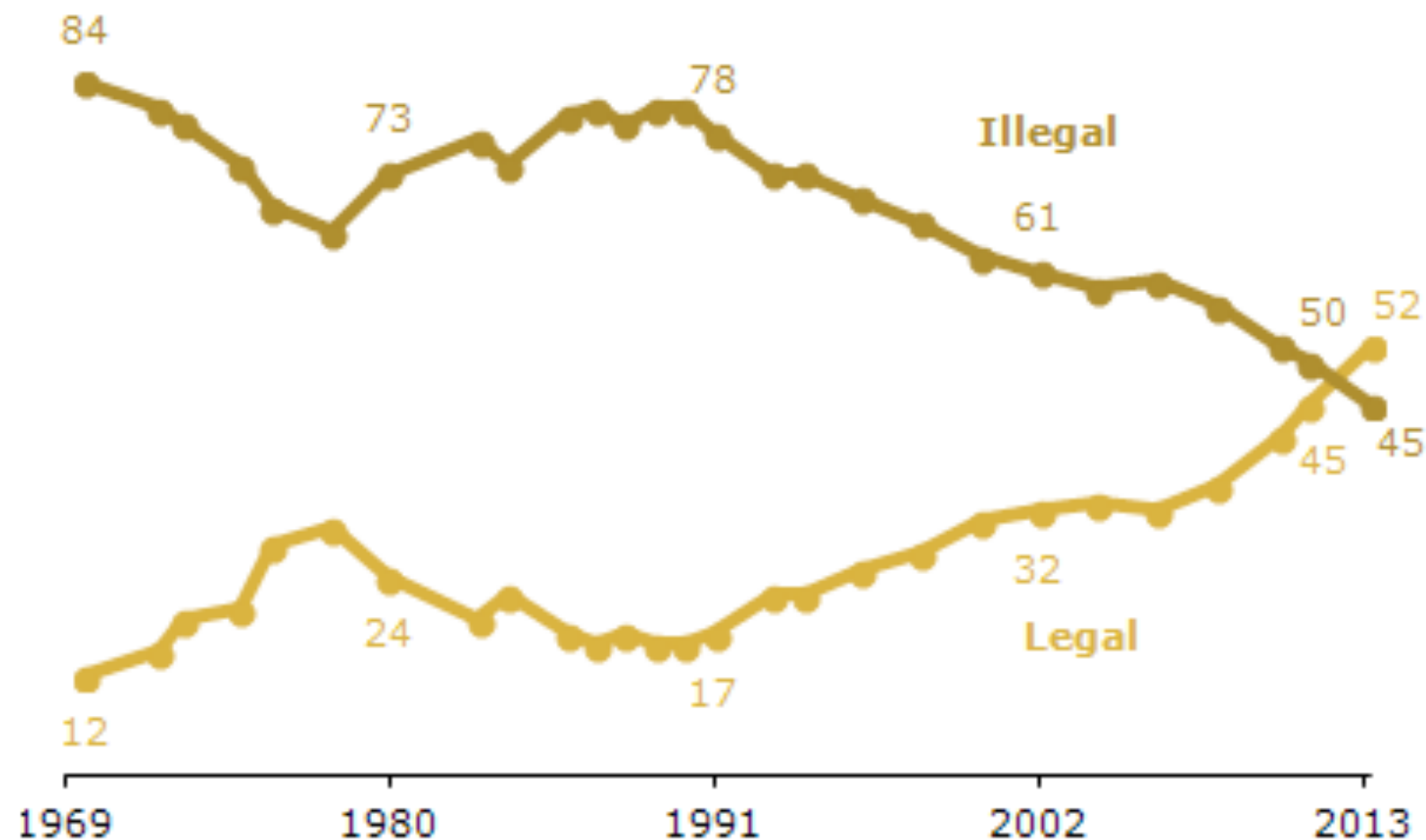
Dr. Josh Meisel, Associate Professor of Sociology. phone: 707.826.4446 • email: meisel@humboldt.edu

Interviews and in the News

- CardHub.com "Ask the Experts: Should Uncle Sam Take a Toke to Fill His Coiffers?" with Professor Erick Eschker August 27, 2013.
- Radio France International (in Portuguese) "**Marijuana Cultivation in California Puts Ecosystem at Risk, Says Survey**" with Professor Josh Meisel July 25, 2013.
- New York Times "**Marijuana Crops in California Threaten Forests and Wildlife**" with Professors Gregg Gold and Anthony Silvaggio June 21, 2013.
- Rolling Stone Magazine "The Dirty Little Secret of Grow Ops" with Professor Anthony Silvaggio June 20, 2013.
- Humboldt State Now "**HSU Journal Challenges Popular Marijuana Claims**" June 19, 2013.
- Chronicle of Higher Education "**Legalize it and they will analyze it**" with Professors Erick Eschker and Josh Meisel June 3, 2013.
- KTAR.com **Medical Marijuana will create 1,500 jobs in Arizona** with Professor Beth Wilson April 23, 2013.
- KHSU radio **interview** with Professor Monica Stephens February 28, 2013.
- High Country News **Blog** February 28, 2013.
- KHSU radio **interview** with Professor Monica Stephens January 28, 2013.
- KQED radio **interview** with Professor Tony Silvaggio December 27, 2012.
- The Willits News "**Once the leader, Calif. now looks to other states for legalization of pot**" December 18, 2012
- Christian Science Monitor "**With a puff of smoke, pot becomes legal in Washington**" December 6, 2012
- Alan Colmes radio show "Liberaland" **interview** with Professor Joshua Meisel November 29, 2012.
- KHUM radio **interview** with Senior Communications Officer Paul Mann November 28, 2012.
- Washington Post "**Public University in--where else--Humboldt County forms marijuana research institute**" November 26, 2012
- KCBS radio **interview** with Professor Joshua Meisel November 26, 2012 in MP3 format.
- KNX Newsradio/CBS radio **interview** with Professor Erick Eschker November 26, 2012 in MP3 format.
- Time-Standard "**Marijuana institute takes shape at HSU**" November 25, 2012
- KHSU Econews radio **interview** with Professor Tony Silvaggio week of October 1, 2012 in MP3 format.

Views of Legalizing Marijuana: 1969-2013

% saying marijuana should be ...



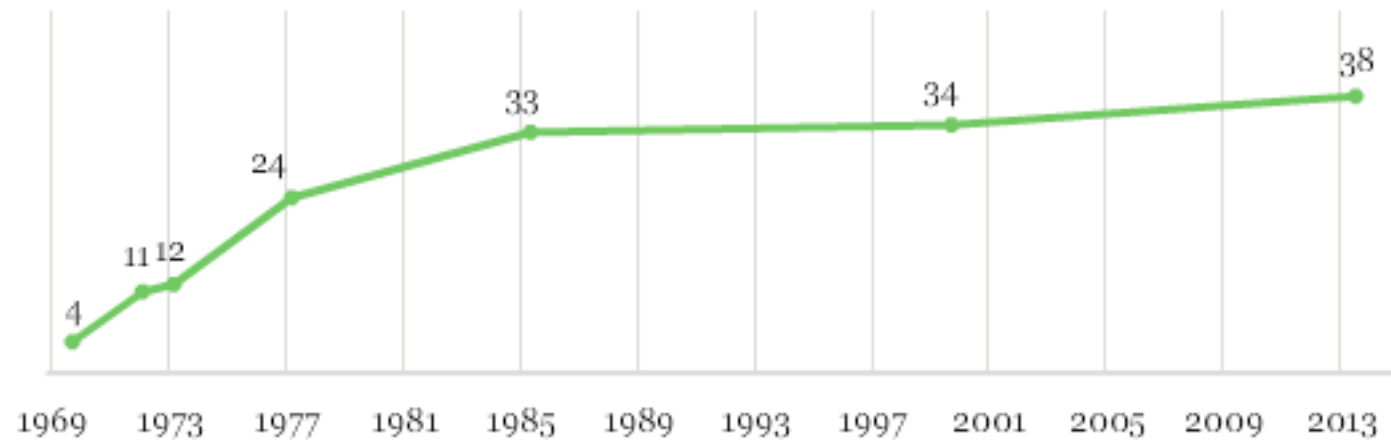
PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013.
1973-2008 data from General Social Survey; 1969 and 1972 data from Gallup.

Institute
DISCIPLINARY
Research

August 2013 Gallup Survey Results

Keeping in mind that all of your answers in this survey are confidential, have you, yourself, ever happened to try marijuana?

■ % Yes



Based on 972 national adults in Form A

Question wording for 1969-1985 trends: Have you, yourself, ever happened to try marijuana?

GALLUP®

Nearly Half Have Ever Tried Marijuana

<i>Have you ever used marijuana?</i>	Mar 2013 %
Yes	48
<i>Used it in the past year?</i>	
<i>In past year</i>	12
<i>Not in past year</i>	36
No	51
Don't know	<u>1</u>
	100

<i>In the past year, did you use marijuana for* ...</i>	
Medical issue	30
Just for fun	47
Both (Vol.)	23
Don't know	<u>0</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. *Asked of those who say they used marijuana in past year (N=146). Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

CA Attitudes towards Legalization



February 2013

- By a five to four margin (54% to 43%), California voters support legalizing the sale of marijuana, with age and other controls like those applicable to alcohol

CA Attitudes towards Legalization



September 2013:

- A majority of Californians (52%) say marijuana should be legalized
- 60% of likely voters favor legalization

Economic Significance of Marijuana Cultivation in California

- “According to a Central Valley High Intensity Drug Trafficking Report (2010)... California may supply up to 79% of the nation’s cannabis supply” (Corva 2013)
- Approximately 26% of Humboldt County economy is tied to marijuana cultivation. (Budwig 2013)

According to...



Alcohol Prohibition was a failure...

Alcohol prohibition was *not* repealed because people decided that alcohol was a harmless drug. On the contrary, **the United States learned during Prohibition**, even more than in prior decades, **the true horrors of the drug**. What brought about Repeal was the slowly dawning awareness that alcohol prohibition wasn't working.

Source: Brecher, Edward M and the Editors of Consumer Reports. 1972. *Licit and Illicit Drugs*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company.

Prohibition eliminates regulations

Instead of consuming alcoholic beverages manufactured under the safeguards of state and federal standards, for example, people now drank "rotgut," some of it adulterated, some of it contaminated. The use of methyl alcohol, a poison, because ethyl alcohol was unavailable or too costly, led to blindness and death; "ginger Jake," an adulterant found in bootleg beverages, produced paralysis and death.

Significant Enforcement and Marijuana Policy Shifts

1975 – Use of Paraquat

1983 – formation of CAMP

1996 – Compassionate Use Act (Proposition 215)

2000s – Increased use of Asset Forfeiture



Concerns re: Environmental Harms from Cannabis Cultivation not New

From 1983 CAMP Annual Report:

“clear cutting”

“chemical and organic fertilizers”

“rodenticides”

Concerns re: Environmental Harms from Cannabis Cultivation not New

“At the conclusion of the CAMP ’83 season, an informal survey was conducted to assess the effects of the marijuana cultivation on the environment. That survey revealed that mice, birds, rabbits, deer and other animals are the natural enemy of growers because they eat the marijuana plants, particularly in the seedling stage. Virtually every garden is protected from animals by one or more of the following methods: fencing, animal traps, snares, set guns, **various forms of poisons** and by armed growers.”

- 1984 CAMP Annual Report, pg 18

Concerns re: Environmental Harms from Cannabis Cultivation not New

“Deer have been found in emaciated conditions, unable to flee when picked up by wardens or biologists. A half ounce of it (**Havoc**) will eat out the whole digestive tract of a deer and put it into unbelievable pain – until it starves to death! Any bird or mammal – or even fish affected by the water runoff – that ingests this substance is dead.”

- 1983 CAMP Annual Report, pg 19

Understanding the Culture and Practices of Marijuana Agriculture in California

- CONTEXT IN WHICH THE MARIJUANA INDUSTRY EMERGED IN USA
- INDUSTRY PLAYERS – PROFILES
- WHY? UNDERSTANDING MJ AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES
- FUTURE PROJECTIONS FOR ECONOMY, ECOLOGY, AND COMMUNITY

CONTEXT IN WHICH THE MARIJUANA INDUSTRY EMERGED IN USA

- 1930s Outlawed in USA
 - At the time MJ was used primarily by minorities and disenfranchised groups. It should be noted that alcohol and tobacco, however, remained legal.
- 1960s-1970 Majority of marijuana coming to USA was low quality smuggled in from Mexico
- 1975 Eradication program begins, with USA/Mexico agreement to spray the herbicide, Paraquat on Mexican MJ fields. Federal Government runs PR campaign publicizing the program in hopes of deterring use.
- Late 1970s and 1980s, health concerns around Paraquat did not have desired effect of reducing number of users, it simply shifted sourcing to Jamaican and Columbian MJ, both more potent than Mexican marijuana

CONTEXT IN WHICH THE MARIJUANA INDUSTRY EMERGED IN USA

- Paraquat fears led to increase in demand for “paraquat free” MJ to avoid adverse effects of herbicide residues, which led to a bonanza for California pot growers.
- In the 1970s and 1980s, MJ entrepreneurs in the emerald triangle traveled the world to bring back MJ seeds, helping to increase the plant diversity and potency of MJ strains in the USA.
- 1983 Campaign Against Marijuana Planting Begins.
- 1996 Proposition 215, Compassionate Use Act opened up the grey market for MJ Ag.
- 2012, Colorado and Washington pass measures legalizing MJ for recreational use.
- August 2013, DOJ releases memo not prosecute MJ crimes in WA and CO that were legal under state law.

History of Industry Players – Profiles

Newcomers

- Back to Land Movement of late 1960s -70s
- Burnt out from city
- Homesteaders
 - living off the land
 - Self sufficient and wanted rural lifestyle
 - Insatiable appetite for freedom and community self reliance

Pragmatists

- These were loggers, mill workers, and rural laborers who hit tough times in the 70s and 80s.
- Region was dependent on one industry – Timber
- Economy based on one single crop – monoculture - is intrinsically unstable and condemned to boom and bust cycles
- Marijuana Cottage industry emerged with these local folks

Subsequent Generations of Children of Back to Landers

- Different Cultural values from parents
- Values more mainstream (consumerism and materialism)
- Given space to grow on family owned land, or private timber lands
- Encouraged at young age to get into industry
- Sought to expand mj agricultural enterprises (bosses)
- Much more of an appetite for money than parents or grandparents.
- Less of an ecological ethic and not as community minded than previous generations

Green Rushers / Pot Miners

- Newcomers to area who buy up large chunks of land in remote areas for the sole purpose of industrial marijuana agriculture.
- Not concerned about environmental issues, and does not know anything about the cultural history of region
- Not connected with local community
- Not interested in complying with any land use regulations
- Only concern is profit from MJ agriculture

Trespass Growers

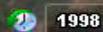
- Both Locals and Out of Towners
- Group Crime, not Mexican Cartels (DOJ report 2012)
- Inability to of Law enforcement to capture “bosses”

Why? Understanding MJ Agriculture

- Culture that has normalized environmental degradation. This rooted in past land management practices (timber, fishing, agriculture, mining)
- Culture of lawlessness. Wild West, (prop 215)
- Crying wolf – no real impact
- Blaming others – a form of MJ agriculture denial of severity of impacts
- Trust Levels in Government Low



Google earth



Imagery Date: 8/23/2012 40°08'48.54" N 123°38'18.51" W elev 1960 ft eye alt 5369 ft

Why? Understanding MJ Agriculture

- Rural Code of Silence
- Profits remain high
- Group crime structure of industry limits Law enforcement's ability to sanction top leaders
- Lack of effective regulatory framework for addressing environmental violations
- Way too many violators for law enforcement to catch

Why? Understanding MJ Agriculture

- Oevralll, a lack of a land ethic amongst majority involved in MJ agriculture. The sheer numbers of growers breaking environmental laws is staggering.
- Cops and growers still playing the 80s cops and outlaws games. Growers, all types, are not afraid of law enforcements ability to actually enforce on them because of the numbers.
- Camp threat no longer there
- Grey legal area still exists (medical)

Future with Federal Prohibition

- Increase in Scale and Frequency of both personal and industrial grows on public and private lands
- Increase in environmental problems
- Shifting priorities of Law Enforcement in CA to only egregious industrial grows
- Little grower compliance with land use regulations
- Difficult road in designing compatible uses

Future – End of Federal Prohibition

- In the short term, still see and increase in scale and frequency of both personal and industrial grows on public and private lands
- In the short term, an increase in environmental problems associated with grows
- Over the long term, a decrease in scale and frequency of industrial grows
- Over the long term, a decrease in environmental problems associated with grow
- More compliance with land use regulations

Concluding thoughts.....

- Federal Prohibition has failed.
- Problem with grey market: Impact of prop 215 – normalized industrial growing, and that is why we see the increase in scale and frequency of industrial grows.
- State must chip away at fed prohibition by leading the way at crafting a regulatory frameworks that directly address directly land use issues.
- Must stop using the word Mexican Cartel, or Cartel Grows to describe grows on public lands – absolutely no evidence to back claims and misleads public. (See DEA report 2012)
- This issue should be seen not as a law enforcement issue, but a land management issue.

Concluding thoughts

- Safety concerns on private lands – all growers run when they see a chopper. Put more choppers in the air when going in the field.
- Consumers do not show concern about environmental issues associated with MJ agriculture, nor do they show concern about human health concerns (little demand for pesticide free mj)
- Consumer and Grower Education and outreach is essential

Closing thoughts.....

- Short term – CA legalization with strong environmental component.
- Education and outreach to all groups
- Heavy-handed enforcement of trespass growers, including high-budget things like stake-outs in order to catch the leadership doing it.
- Must acknowledge the relationship between these problems and prohibition—and specifically the federal governments counterproductive method of enforcing it that prevents local authorities and land use managers from passing meaningful regulations.